

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 /038 W

----- 078824

R 151029Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5813

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10404

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, JO, SA, LE, US

SUBJECT: TAPLINE: OPTIMISM BUT NOTHING DEFINITE

REF: BEIRUT 9902

1. BOTH TAPLINE AND LEBANESE SOURCES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TAPLINE FUTURE FOLLOWING AUGUST 9-10 SAUDI VISIT OF GOL TEAM, BUT NEITHER PARTY HAS DETAILS, INASMUCH AS SAUDIS APPARENTLY DID NOT GO BEYOND GENERALIZED ASSURANCES.

2. ACCORDING TO TAPLINE'S DAVID DODGE, TEAM RETURNED QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONTINUED CRUDE SUPPLIES TO LEBANON AND RESUMPTION NORMAL TAPLINE OPERATIONS EVENTUALLY. HE REVEALED THAT GOL HAS MADE \$20 MILLION PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT TO TAPLINE, WHICH SHOULD SERVE TO KEEP THE TALKS GOING, AND NOTED THAT, IN THE MEMORY OF VETERAN OBSERVERS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE GOL HAS ACTUALLY MADE A PROMISED PAYMENT TO AN OIL COMPANY. NOTING THAT CRUDE OIL ON HAND AT MEDRECO RUNS OUT ABOUT AUGUST 29, DODGE SAID TAPLINE HAS INFORMED THE GOL  
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THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ONE MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE

SHORTLY, OR A TWO-MONTH SUPPLY. HE STRESSED THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY RESUMPTION OF SUPPLIES.

3 A LEBANESE SOURCE USUALLY FAMILIAR WITH THESE MATTERS ALSO REPORTS GOL OPTIMISM. THE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE GOL TEAM SPENT AN ENTIRE DAY WITH OILMIN YAMANI AT HIS SUMMER RESIDECE. THE LEBANESE NOW HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAUDIS MAY ATTEMPT TO ADJUST EASTERN MEDITERRANEA PRICES DOWNWARD AT THE SEPTEMBER OPEC MEETING, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD PERMIT TAPLINE TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF LEBANON'S "THIRD REFINERY" PROJECT. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PIPELINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT10404  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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